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Research and
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Administration

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National Transportation
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Kendall Square
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September 23, 2002

Melvin and Lerah Parker
P.O. Box 609
Libby, Montana 59923

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-99)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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To	Paul Peronard	From	Julie Borgesi
Dept./Agency	EPA	Phone #	617-494-2434
Fax #	303-312-6962	Fax #	-2789

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5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Subject: Topsoil on Parker Property

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Parker,

This letter is written in response to your questions regarding the 2002 topsoil specification for your property. In a facsimile we received from you September 19, 2002 (see attached) regarding the revegetation plan, you stated that Kendall Ward's topsoil is the soil that you would like to use on your property. The approved topsoil source for Mr. Ward's topsoil contract was from the Boothman pit located on Highway 37. This material was sampled last year and this year and met the government's and your specifications for topsoil. To date we have brought in topsoil from the Boothman pit and fulfilled our contract requirements with Kendall Ward. As a result, the government needs to procure more topsoil to complete the restoration of your property. In order to procure this material, a topsoil specification was developed similar to the one used for the procurement of topsoil in 2000 (contract awarded to Kendall Ward). The basis for the 2002 topsoil specification was taken from sample results obtained by grain size and agronomy analysis of topsoil from the Boothman pit. You mention in your fax that the parameters for the topsoil texture would result in Nixon's soil (currently the Agricultural Fill) being acceptable under these parameters. Although the Agricultural Fill may meet the requirements for soil texture – silt loam, the material also needs to meet the agronomy parameters in our specification in order to be considered acceptable topsoil.

The following summarizes the government's full specification for topsoil, developed from results obtained on a sample taken from the Boothman pit.

Clean topsoil shall conform to Montana Public Works Standard Specifications Section 02910. Topsoil shall be loose, friable, loamy soil, free of excess acid and alkali, contain not less than 2% nor more than 20% organic matter as determined by the loss on ignition of oven dried samples (Reference ASTM D-2974) method. Topsoil shall also not contain objectionable amounts of sod, hard lumps, gravel, sub-soil or other undesirable material that would form a poor seedbed. Specification for specific parameters are listed below:

Parameter	Specification
Organic Matter	2% to 20%
Particle Size	sand 15-70%; clay 15-35%; silt 50-80%

Coarse Fragment Content	< 35%
Textural Class	loamy soil only (i.e., loam, sandy loam, sandy clay loam, or silty loam)
Electrical Conductivity (EC)	< 4mmhos/cm
pH	6 - 8
Parameter cont'd	Specification cont'd
Nutrients	Nitrogen > 10 mg/kg; phosphorus > 5 mg/kg; potassium > 100 mg/kg
Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)	<12
Exchangeable Sodium Percentage (ESP)	<15

Prior to acceptance, the topsoil will be sampled by the Government to determine if the topsoil meets specifications. Government sampling of this material may include the parameters listed above. The clean topsoil will be capable of producing natural vegetation. Before stripping topsoil, ensure that it has supported the healthy growth of crops, grass or other desirable vegetation. The Government reserves the right to reject any topsoil it deems unacceptable for use at the site.

Topsoil material to be brought in for the remainder of the 2002 construction season will meet the requirements stated in the specification above. Please let us know if you have any comments on the topsoil specification. Should you have any questions, please call me at (617) 494-2574.

Sincerely,



John McGuiggin, PE
Project Manager

cc: EPA/Paul Peronard, OSC
CDM/Peter Borowiec
File/Parker Restoration

Attachment: (1) Letter

PAGE-1

REVEGETATION PLAN. Sept-13/02.

MR. JOHN M'QUIGEN

I HAVE REVIEWED THE MOST RECENT VERSION OF THE "RAINY CREEK/KOOTENAI RIVER BANK RESTORATION RECLAMATION/REVEGETATION SPECIFICATIONS DATED AUG 21/02.

I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM THOSE FOLKS WHO DEAL WITH REFORESTATION, RIPARIAN IMPROVEMENT, GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT AND THEIR INPUT IS A PART OF MY RESPONSE.

WE NEED TO CLARIFY AT THIS POINT, JOHN, THAT THE TABLE-1 IN THIS PROPOSAL IS THE REVEGETATION SEED MIX AND TABLE-2 DOES NOT EXIST.

IN THE ORIGINAL COPY IT WAS TABLE-1 WHICH DID NOT EXIST AND TABLE-2 WAS THE REVEGETATION SEED MIX.

YOU HAVE INCLUDED IN THIS PROPOSAL A TABLE FOR "TOP SOIL PARAMETERS". THIS WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ORIGINAL. THIS TABLE IS NOT LABELLED BY NUMBER. THEREFORE WE HAVE A BIT OF CONFUSION BUT NOTHING THAT WAS NOT UNDERSTOOD.

1.) LET US HOPE THAT KEN WARD GETS THE BID FOR THE REMAINING TOP SOIL. JOHN. HIS SOIL IS A LOAM WITHOUT TRASH, AND CERTAINLY IS BETTER THAN THE SOIL FROM WORTH NIXON. HOWEVER, WITH THE PARAMETERS YOU HAVE

Page-2.
For "Top Soil Texture" in your New Table, Nixons
Soil as "Acceptable Topsoil Qualifications" could
very well be a blessing compared to what
other bidders would be allowed to bring onto
the property, if they were successful. Mr. Wards
Soil is what we asked for and what we want!!
Let us go through the rest of your New
Proposal. John.

Page-7* Seed Mixing Item C*

You say, "Seed shall be delivered pre-
mixed to the site to the extent practicable.

Our findings are: "If you have the seed
pre-mixed, then the Blue Tag, which
verifies the seed as being free of
noxious weeds, is ~~not~~ no longer valid."

Therefore, we ask that you do not pre-mix
the seed.

Page-8* - Table-3* Plant Material.

John!

I thought you folks had visited the
site, took measurements, made a species
adaptable determination and re-constructed
the revegetation plan. I did not realize
that you took Silver Springs Nursery
order "per se" and used the species,
size and quantities to duplicate last.